## PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING A SYSTEM FOR SUMMARIZING SELECT TREE RECORDS AND STATUS INFORMATION

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<u>Abstract</u>.--A system for summarizing select tree records and current status information has been implemented in the eastern and mid-western United States. Participants receive printouts that list pertinent data for each select tree included in the cooperating tree improvement programs. These printouts provide a compact recordkeeping system, general information on the status of other programs, and information necessary to initiate exchanges of plant materials. Anyone working with a tree improvement program is invited to participate.

## Additional keywords : Automatic data processing.

During this past year, the Eastern Region and the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, Forest Service, U.S.D.A. have implemented a system to summarize select tree records and status information. The objective is to provide all participating cooperators with a list of plant materials being used in forest tree improvement programs within the twenty state area extending from Maine to Minnesota, south to Missouri and east to Maryland, and the eastern Canadian Provinces. This paper describes the system as it evolved, and reports on our progress to date.

Many organizations, including states, provinces, federal agencies, industries, colleges, and universities have initiated tree improvement programs within the past few years. These efforts include several species, and vary a great deal in scope and intensity. The number of selections within a species, however, are often limited due to financial restraints and political boundaries. The genetic base could easily be broadened if program coordinators had access to a list of plant materials being used in similar programs. Of equal importance, the list would help to identify the original selector and location of the plant material thus reducing the chance of obtaining identical genotypes from participating cooperators.

Following discussions at the Twenty-Third Northeastern Forest Tree Improvement Conference (Miller 1976), a survey conducted by the authors indicated there was interest in establishing a Select Tree Register and Status Report. Instructions, codes, and report forms were developed and sent to the potential cooperators. Interested parties transferred their

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select tree data from their respective forms to the Fortran Coding Sheet (Figure 1). Data essential to the program includes tree number and codes for state, agency, species, originator, status, and control. An accession number, critical to running the program, must be assigned to each selection by the organization coordinating the work. Other desirable information includes the county code, latitude, longitude, selection objectives, and statistics on the selected trees.

Completed coding forms were received from six cooperators. The data was keypunched as submitted and run through the computer. Each participant received a copy of the Select Tree Register and Status Report.

The Select Tree Register provides a list of all trees reported by the cooperators with pertinent data for each tree. The trees are grouped by agency and national forest, and by species within each agency and national forest. Only one species is printed on a page. The original location of the selected tree and the agency that made the original selection are identified. A sample page from the Register (Figure 2) shows a partial list of black walnut selections in the Purdue University program.

The Status Report (Figure 3) shows current status information for the trees listed in Figure 2. This report includes the basic locations and tree identification information. It shows if the tree is alive or dead, how it has been used in the overall program--seed orchard, evaluation plantations, etc., if seed has been collected from an individual tree (one X), if there is sufficient seed in storage to establish evaluation plantations (two X's), and identifies those trees that are included in other programs with different (alias) numbers.

The present Registers include 4,067 individual tree selections (Table 1). These trees are located in twenty-five states and three Canadian Provinces.

These data are stored on tapes, and will be updated during the first quarter of 1977. The present cooperators will be able to update their existing data and to add new select tree information to the system. New participants are most welcome to include their select tree data in the system at this time, too. We are pleased with the initial response and hope you too will participate in the future.

## LITERATURE CITED

Miller, R.G. 1976. A system for summarizing superior tree records and status information. <u>In</u> Twenty-Third Northeastern Forest Tree Improvement Conference Proceedings, p.143-149.

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Figure 2.--Sample page from select tree register showing data from Figure 1.

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Figure 3.-- Sample Page from select tree status report showing data from Figure 1.

Conifers		Hardw	oods
Species Number of	of Selections	Species	Number of Selections
White spruce	350	Black cherry	201
Black spruce	152	Yellow poplar	143
Red spruce	12	Black walnut	612
E. white pine	914	Yellow birch	236
Red pine	86	Paper birch	108
Jack pine	468	White ash	26
Shortleaf pine	65	Green ash	13
Scotch pine	14	Sugar maple	106
Balsam fir	176	Red maple	26
Himalayan white pine	14	Silver maple	12
Misc. five needle pines	13	Basswood	65
Misc. conifers	3	Red oak	75
	2,267	White oak	29
		Black oak	17
		Scarlet oak	15
		Populus spp.	116
			1,800

## Table 1. -- Number of selections by species